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Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 /035 W
----------090834Z 091901 /12
R 090702Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6971

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RP
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF HORTENCIO BRILLANTES ON CIEC ISSUES

REF: STATE 102591

1. NO OFFICER AT EMBASSY MANILA IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH AMBASSADOR HORTENCIO BRILLANTES WHO HAS SPENT HIS CAREER LARGELY ABROAD. HE WAS WITH THE PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS FROM 1956 TO 1965, SERVED AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN TOKYO 1965 TO 1967, AND HAS BEEN PERMANENT GOP REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA SINCE 1967. NOW 65, HE WAS TWICE RECEIVED A REPRIEVE FROM MANDATORY RETIREMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO GENEVA 848 OF MARCH 10, 1971, AMB. BRILLANTES IS RECOGNIZED AS LEADING LDC SPOKESMAN IN BOTH UNCTAD AND UNIDO. ALTHOUGH HE PRESSES HARD FOR LDC CAUSES, HE TAKES CONSTRUCTIVE NON-POLEMIC LINE.

3. ONE SENIOR DFA OFFICER IN MANILA STATES THAT BRILLANTES FOLLOWS GROUP OF 77 LINE CLOSELY, WHILE ANOTHER (AMBASSADOR VEGA) STATES THAT HE IS "A MODERATING INFLUENCE" WITHIN THE GROUP. BRILLANTES' SPECIALTY IS UNCTAD AND TRADE. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE GOP
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DELEGATIONS TO THE MANILA GROUP OF 77 MINISTERIAL (FEBRUARY 1976) AND THE NAIROBI UNCTAD IV (MAY 1976).

4. BRILLANTES WILL BE AN OBSERVER AT THE CIEC ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77. THE GOP OBSERVER WILL LIKELY BE AMBASSADOR BOMINGO L. SIAZON, PHILIPPINE REP TO IAEA AND UNIDO. SIAZON IS YOUNGER, EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT

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AND ARTICULATE. HE WILL FOLLOW THE GOP POLICY OF SUPPORTING GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS BUT HAS A REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF ECONOMIC LAWS AND ACTS ACCORDINGLY. IF SIAZON IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE GOP OBSERVER WILL THEN BE PHILEMBOFF RAVALA FROM PARIS. SEE MEMCON 3/9/77 ON ASEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS POUCHED EA/PHL AND INR/REA/PHL.

5. IN GENERAL, THE GOP WILL SUPPORT THE GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS AS THEY WERE DEVELOPED FROM THE MANILA AND NAIROBI MEETINGS. IT WILL PUSH FOR AN INTEGRATED COM-MODITY FUND, SUPPORT GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF, CALL FOR INDEXATION, ETC. HOWEVER, WHEN ITS OWN INTERESTS AREDIRECTLY INVOLVED (E.G., SUGAR), THE GOP WOULD TEND TO FOLLOW A PRAGMATIC ROUTE RATHER THAN ADHERE TO IDEOLOGY, PROVIDED THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT WEAKENING ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE G-77 AND ASEAN. BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF ENERGY SOURCES, THE GOP WILL TEND TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE ON ENERGY.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ASK GENEVA AND VIENNA ABOUT VIEWS OF BRILLANTES AND SIAZON ON CIEC ISSUES. STULL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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